

preferably oriented or directed toward the adjacent vertebral bodies. As shown in FIGs. 7 and 8, instead of openings 120, 122, trailing end 104 can include openings 132, 134, 136, 138, for receiving bone-engaging screws. Openings 132, 134, 136, 138 can be oriented toward upper and lower surfaces 106, 108 in an alternating manner as shown in FIG. 7. Alternatively, openings 132, 138 can be oriented toward upper surface 106 and openings 134, 136 can be oriented toward lower surface 108 as shown in Figure 8, or any combination thereof. The number of openings in trailing end 104 can vary depending on the size of the implant and the number of screws desired to be utilized by the surgeon.--

Page 11, first paragraph:

--In a further embodiment of the present invention, the medullary canal 114 of bone ring implant 100 may be loaded with fusion promoting substances and/or the implant may be treated with fusion promoting substances. Such substances may include, but are not limited to, bone morphogenetic protein (BMP), genetic material coding for the production of bone, mineralizing proteins, bone or bone products, a chemical substance to inhibit scar formation, and other materials.--

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims (with the changes as shown in the attachment) to read as follows:

1. (Amended) An interbody spinal implant made of cortical bone for insertion at least in part into an implantation space formed across the height of a disc space between adjacent vertebral bodies of a human spine and into at least a portion of